

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. In an electronic device having a database of records of different categories, a method of displaying information comprising the steps of:
- a) receiving an indication from a user that selects a first category type of said different category types;
 - b) indexing a table with said first category type to obtain a first sort field for said first category type, said table associating each category of said different categories with its own sort field;
 - c) sorting records of said first category type by said first sort field obtained in step b) to produce a first list; and
 - d) displaying a portion of said first list on a display screen of said electronic device.

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2. A method as described in Claim 1 and further comprising the steps of:
- receiving another indication from said user that selects a second category type of said different category types;
 - indexing said table with said second category type to obtain a second sort field for said second category type;
 - sorting records of said second category type by said second sort field obtained to produce a second list; and
 - displaying in list order a portion of said second list on said display screen.

3. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.

4. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said electronic device
5 is a wireless telephone.

5. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said database is a database of contact information comprising records each having fields defining a name, an address and a telephone number.

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6. A method as described in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
assigning a default sort field for each category of said table; and
allowing a user to define a particular sort field for each category of said
table.

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7. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said step a) comprises the step of said user depressing a designated button on said electronic device.

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20 8. In hand-held personal digital assistant having an address database of contact records of different categories, a method of displaying information comprising the steps of:
a) receiving an indication from a user that selects a first category type of said different category types;
b) indexing a table with said first category type to obtain a first sort field
25 for said first category type, said table associating each category of said different categories with its own sort field;

c) sorting contact records of said first category type by said first sort field obtained in step b) to produce a first list; and

d) displaying a portion of said first list on a display screen of said electronic device.

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9. A method as described in Claim 8 and further comprising the steps of:

receiving another indication from said user that selects a second category type of said different category types;

10 indexing said table with said second category type to obtain a second sort field for said second category type;

sorting contact records of said second category type by said second sort field obtained to produce a second list; and

15 displaying in list order a portion of said second list on said display screen.

10. A method as described in Claim 8 wherein said electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.

20 11. A method as described in Claim 8 wherein said electronic device is a wireless telephone.

25 12. A method as described in Claim 8 wherein said address database comprises contact records each having fields defining a name, an address and a telephone number.

13. A method as described in Claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

assigning a default sort field for each category of said table; and
allowing a user to define a particular sort field for each category of said
table.

5 14. A method as described in Claim 8 wherein said step a) comprises
the step of said user depressing a designated button on said electronic device.

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10 15. An electronic device comprising a processor coupled to a bus, a
display coupled to said bus and a memory coupled to said bus, said memory
having a database of records of different categories and instructions
implementing a method of displaying information comprising the steps of:
a) receiving an indication from a user that selects a first category type of
said different category types;
b) indexing a table with said first category type to obtain a first sort field
15 for said first category type, said table associating each category of said different
categories with its own sort field;
c) sorting records of said first category type by said first sort field obtained
in step b) to produce a first list; and
d) displaying a portion of said first list on said display screen.

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16. A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said method
further comprises the steps of:

receiving another indication from said user that selects a second
category type of said different category types;

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indexing said table with said second category type to obtain a second
sort field for said second category type;

sorting records of said second category type by said second sort field
obtained to produce a second list; and

displaying in list order a portion of said second list on said display
screen.

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17. A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said
electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.

18. A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said
10 electronic device is a wireless telephone.

19. A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said
database is a database of contact information comprising records each having
fields defining a name, an address and a telephone number.

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20. A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said method
further comprises the steps of:

assigning a default sort field for each category of said table; and

allowing a user to define a particular sort field for each category of said
20 table.

21. A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said step a)
of said method comprises the step of said user depressing a designated button
on said electronic device.